



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Murray J. Haberman to Step Down as Executive Director of California Postsecondary Education Commission

He will retire after nearly 35 years of state service

SACRAMENTO — September 22, 2008 — Murray J. Haberman, Executive Director of the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), has announced that he will step down on December 31, 2008. He will retire after nearly 35 years of state service. Haberman, 55, began his career with the state's Department of Finance and has held positions with the Commission for the Review of the Master Plan for Higher Education, the California Research Bureau, and the Little Hoover Commission. He has held various research and leadership positions with CPEC. Haberman will pursue interests to make higher education in the state more accessible, more affordable, and more accountable.

"After several challenging years," Haberman said, "I believe that during my tenure the Commission has accomplished much of what it set out to achieve. Today, it is stronger, more viable, and a solid influence on higher education policy development and implementation. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have served the Commission and the people of our great state," he said.

In response to Haberman's announcement, Commission Chair Olivia K. Singh said, "Murray's vision and leadership have been instrumental in illuminating the discourse about the many challenges facing postsecondary education in California today. A number of the initiatives undertaken during Murray's time as Executive Director have been shared with and subsequently borrowed by similar entities around the country as 'best practice'."

Commission Vice Chair John Perez added, "I am sorry to see Murray go. He has been an invaluable asset to the Commission. In my three years as a Commissioner, Murray has helped me immensely in carrying out my duties as a public member of the Commission."

Under Haberman's direction since 2004, the Commission developed a performance assessment system for higher education, improved the nexus between postsecondary education and workforce development, addressed approaches to help students to become better prepared to

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succeed after entering postsecondary education, and strongly advocated to make a college education more affordable for California families. In addition, during his tenure, Haberman oversaw the distribution of over \$40 million in grants to improve K-12 teacher quality through various professional development programs. The Commission's website, www.cpec.ca.gov, which serves the general public, policymakers, and researchers, receives nearly 9 million hits annually.

The Commission will begin a national search immediately. Commission Chair Olivia K. Singh has requested that Mr. Haberman remain as Interim Executive Director until no later than June 30, 2009, or as soon as a new Executive Director is named.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.